SYLLABUS

Musi 332 – Aural Skills 4	**spring 2017**	**MWF 9-9:50a**
Dr. Mary Greitzer (office 2809A)	greitzer@rice.edu	meets in APB 1402
TA: Yuri McCoy	yuri.h.mccoy@rice.edu	meets in APB 1403

Course Objectives

To develop a good ear and fluent musicianship!

The more you understand musical structure, the more nuance & depth & understanding of expressive possibilities and composerly intentions your artistry can draw upon.

> *"Your intuition takes you so far – then you need to understand something about the music's structure to take things to the next level."* – Leone Buyse

> *"Even with things that seem instinctive, you have to know exactly why you feel that way."* – Joshua Bell

Your musicianship training is organized in two parts: aural skills and written theory. Music theory classes explain various kinds of musical structure. Ear training teaches you to *hear* these structures, which helps you **play by ear, make transcriptions, improvise, transpose, sightsing, audiate musical scores in your head, *voice-lead*… and generally understand what is going on in the music**.

> *"Everything you learn in theory class should apply to your playing!"* – Jon Kimura Parker

Topics of Study

Music 332 culminates our study of tonal procedures through an examination of four repertoires: we continue with **19th c. chromaticism,** and also study **Bach fugue, fin-du-siecle use of "modes and scales,"** and a little bit of **jazz**. We will also continue to practice vocal and instrumental improvisation over a ground bass.

- Bach's keyboard fugues – selections from *WTC* & *Art of Fugue*
- 19th c. chromaticism – modal mixture, altered dominants, +6, CT(dim)7
- Improvisation over a ground bass – lament bass & *La Follia*
- Diatonic modes / symmetrical scales / polyscalarity, in Prokofiev, Ravel, Debussy, etc
- Jazz – basics of jazz harmony & how to read a lead sheet
- Rhythm – 4:3 and 3:4, quintuplets, asymmetrical meters (5's, 7's, 11's), changing meters, tempo modulation
- treble, alto, bass clefs

Required Materials

• text: Anne Carothers Hall, *Studying Rhythm*, 3rd Ed. (Prentice Hall, 2005)
• staff paper and pencils brought to every class, metronome at home
• access to course website on Owlspace

Attendance and Grading

I expect you to be *in class, on time, and prepared.* You get one "free" unexcused absence; each additional one will lower your final grade. Excused absences must be requested in writing (for illness, professional obligation, family emergency, etc).

- Exams (3) & Quizzes = 80%
- HW, effort, participation = 20%

There will be an exam held at the end of each five-week period. Exams may include in-class and take-home tasks. The Final Exam is cumulative, weighted more heavily than the first 2 exams, and it includes both written dictation and individual performance tasks. *You need a grade of C or higher on both parts of the Final Exam to pass the course.*

Office Hours:

By appointment. All 332 students are encouraged to seek extra help with either of us, whenever necessary.

~ syllabus subject to change ~

*** If you have any documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact your instructor to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Ley Student Center. ***